

Town of Sheffield
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
April 2, 2007
7 p.m.

Board Members Present: David Macy, Chairman
Julie Hannum, Clerk
James Collingwood

Others Present: Robert Weitz, Town Administrator

Chairman Macy called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Selectman Hannum moved to approve the minutes from March 7, 2007, March 12 2007, March 15, 2007 and March 26, 2007 meetings , seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

MAIL OF NOTE:

Southern Berkshire Regional School District: Administrator Weitz read a letter from Southern Berkshire Regional School District requesting an article be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to transfer \$285,000 from the E & D account to cover a shortfall in school choice tuition. Discussion ensued on the short fall. Chairman Macy is not in support of this warrant article. Finance Committee Chairman David Steindler urged the Board not to support this article. Selectman Hannum stated that she is not prepared to make a motion at this time. Discussion will continue at a meeting on Wednesday.

COUNCIL ON AGING:

Administrator Weitz read a letter from the Council on Aging in support of scheme #4 for the proposed senior center. Administrator Weitz read a second letter from Peter Traub and Pauline Schumann which included an attached letter from Doug Goodman of Reinhardt Associates regarding the construction of the Senior Center. Discussion ensued on the financing of the center. Discussion ensued on placing the construction of the center on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Selectman Hannum moved to have the Senior Center Building Committee meet and bring further information to the Board of Selectmen by April 11, 2007, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. Motion carried unanimously.

POSSIBLE WARRANT ARTICLES:

Chairman Macy explained the process for accessing each town's appropriation to fund the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) budget. The five towns met and worked out a method for calculating each town's appropriation. The DOE's method was not used. The DOE has sent out a guidance memo stating that their method must be used, unless every town agrees to it every year. SBRSD has requested a total budget of \$9,301,570 for FY08. Discussion ensued on the minimum local contribution for

Sheffield. Discussion ensued on using the statutory formula, which would result in a \$320,989 reduction in Sheffield's school assessment and would eliminate the need for a Proposition 2 ½ override for Sheffield. Chairman Macy suggested that 2 warrant articles be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as follows:

1. to fund the school budget using the minimum contribution method
2. to fund beyond the minimum contribution

Discussion ensued on the requirements for passing the school budget. Selectman Hannum moved to fund \$3,465,191 which would be Sheffield's portion by the minimum contribution and \$1,295,769.00 additional funding beyond the minimum contribution, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrator Weitz submitted a list of possible warrant articles. The capital articles were requested by departments when they submitted their budget requests. The Zoning articles were requested by the Planning Board. One article regarding the personnel policies was requested through a petition. An article is proposed regarding by-law to allow the Moderator to declare a majority on votes requiring 2/3rds majority. Acceptance of the land near the covered bridge for a picnic area will be placed on the warrant. Discussion ensued on articles that are required to be approved each year. Discussion ensued on an article for hotel/motel tax; this will not be placed on the warrant. Discussion ensued on withdrawing from the mosquito control program. The program costs \$27,000 per year. Discussion ensued on the acceptance of a Medicare supplement statute. This could require any retiree to enroll in Medicare and the town would pick up a supplemental insurance plan to cover the retiree in the same manner as the current health insurance plan. This would be a savings for the town.

Discussion ensued on lighting associated with the Village Green Project.

LEGION SUPPORT PAYMENT:

Selectman Hannum moved to allocate \$500 to support the Legion operations, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

RENTAL OF DEWEY HALL:

A rental agreement was submitted from the Friendly Union for Dewey Hall. The rent will remain the same as the current year. Selectman Collingwood moved to accept the rental agreement as submitted with the rent to remain the same as current, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

SOLID WASTE ABATEMENT APPLICATION:

Roger and Priscilla Stevens have submitted an application to abate the last five years. They have indicated that they transport their trash to Canaan NY. Selectman Hannum moved to request verification from the applicants of their use of a licensed facility, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The motion carried unanimously.

BERKSHIRE SCHOOL ONE DAY ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE:

Berkshire School as requested 3 one day alcoholic beverage licenses for June 7th, 8th & 9th. This is an annual request. The certificate of insurance has been received. Selectman

Collingwood moved to grant 3 one day alcoholic beverage licenses to Berkshire School for June 7th, 8th and 9th, seconded by Selectman Hannum. The motion carried unanimously.

CTSB DIRECT PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION:

Time Warner needs a letter of authorization to send the public access fee directly to CTSB. Selectman Hannum moved to authorize the Chairman to send a letter to Time Warner allowing direct payment to CTSB, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. Motion carried unanimously.

SELECTMEN ITEMS:

Selectman Collingwood discussed the intersection of Old Joe Road, Administrator Weitz, Selectman Collingwood and Highway Superintendent Ronnie Bassett will conduct a site visit. Selectman Collingwood moved to alter the intersection based on recommendations from the site visit, seconded by Selectman Hannum. Chairman Macy would like Police Chief McGarry included with the decisions on any alteration to the intersection. Motion carried unanimously.

Selectman Hannum discussed West Road being in of need maintenance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Arthur Miller thanked the Board of Selectman and Administrator Weitz for all of their hard work.

Selectman Hannum moved to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining and the meeting would not return to open session, seconded by Selectman Collingwood. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chairman Macy – aye

Selectman Hannum – aye

Selectman Collingwood – aye

Executive Session entered at 8:30 pm

Chairman Macy adjourned the meeting at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Rhonda LaBombard
Recording Secretary